

ABROAD

MANILA

Rome and Peking

Is the People's Republic of China ready to end its 27-year-old dispute with the Vatican? So far, Mainland Chinese Catholics have been grouped under the state-controlled Catholic Association, which claims three million adherents. It does not recognize the supremacy of Rome and appoints its own bishops and priests; it has accused the Vatican of "subversive action" against Chinese churches. Mainland China also has an underground Catholic Church, loyal to Rome, but its leaders are for the most part in jail for celebrating private Masses and baptisms. After a recent visit to Peking, however, the Filipino prelate Jaime Cardinal Sin appears to believe that things may change, and goes so far as to speak of a "breakthrough." Cardinal Sin even reports that the Catholic Association would be ready to align itself with Rome, but he refuses to elaborate on this. Pope John Paul II has made a number of gestures toward Peking, the most recent during his visit to South Korea when he spoke warmly of the Chinese people. An important element in the situation is the Catholic Church in Taiwan, which has particularly close ties to Rome. Taiwanese bishops have now distributed a conciliatory pastoral letter asking their flocks to adopt an understanding attitude toward the Pope's desire for closer ties with Mainland China. The letter was entitled: "The Church in China: One Shepherd, One Flock."

KAMPALA

More Trouble in Uganda

British diplomats are having second thoughts about their country's program of aid—modest compared to the old days, but still substantial—to Uganda, now ruled by Dr. Milton Obote, successor to the legendary tyrant Idi Amin. Reports based on serious evidence speak of starvation and torture of people who are in effect innocent bystanders in tribal conflicts; several thousand of these have died in military prisons in the last few years in circumstances that match in kind if not in scale the massacres of Ugandans under General Amin. The British program has been worth an annual £7 million (\$8 million) and has included a small but important British army training team, ammunition, and light weapons. Lately there has been news that Dr. Obote is turning increasingly to assistance from North Korea. Uganda's vice president, Paulo Muwanga, flew to Pyongyang last fall to negotiate for an enlarged military mission. At least seven hundred North Korean soldiers are currently stationed at Entebbe and have been used in the field against rebel guerrillas.

BRUSSELS

Common Market Crisis

The diplomatic crisis that has been plaguing the Common Market over the entry of Spain and Portugal has moved into high gear. The deadline for agreement on entry conditions is the end of March, if parliamentary procedures for admission are to start on time in 1986. Britain, France, Denmark, West Germany, and Ireland are, for example, standing firm against any sweetening of the offer of fishing rights already made to the Spanish government. These coun-

tries want the large Spanish fishing fleet kept out of certain Common Market waters for at least ten years after Spain gets in. Other member states are satisfied with a seven-year prohibition. Another important snag is the threat by the Greek government to veto the entry of Spain and Portugal unless there is a huge (\$4-billion) aid program devised for the eastern Mediterranean, meaning specifically financial compensation for putative Greek market losses.

BELGRADE

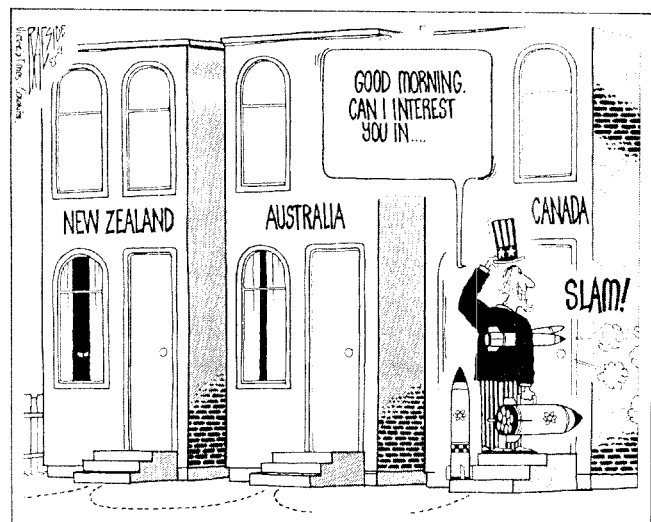
In This Century

Europe's "Project of the Century," the construction of a network of waterways linking the North Sea to the Black Sea via the Rhine, Main, and Danube Rivers, may in fact be finished in the 1990s. That is when the Federal Republic of Germany will complete its part of the project, which will eventually comprise some two thousand miles of canals and navigable rivers. The fact that there is a difference of about a thousand feet in water level between the Main and the Danube indicates the size of the locks necessary for that part of the route. Meanwhile, Yugoslavia is working on ambitious plans that will probably be slowed down because of its external debt crisis, but envisioned are canals from Zagreb to the Adriatic and a Danube-Vadar canal to open an important region of the Balkans to the Aegean Sea near Salonika. Rumania, also beset by economic difficulties, has nevertheless constructed a canal to the Black Sea that shortens the river route by 250 miles. Hungary and Austria are two landlocked states that also have a vital stake in the Danube traffic. One example of what the new network will mean in terms of transport capacity suffices. Two tugs pushing a river convoy of barges can move the same amount of cargo as all the freight cars in Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest region.

LONDON

Modern War

New Zealand's Prime Minister David Lange, in London to mend fences over his refusal to allow American naval vessels to dock at New Zealand ports, had this comment on the episode. In a reference to the United States' withholding of intelligence information as a consequence, Lange remarked: "We can live with that," and continued: "If the U.S. really wanted to attack us, they would cut off *Dallas* and *The A-Team*."



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